

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 4 and 7 being independent claims.

Claims 1-8 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bick* (U.K. Pat. App. No. GB 2,367,530) in view of Miller Jr. (U.S. 6,392,870).

Please amend Claims 1, 4 and 7 as shown herein. No new matter has been added.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner states that *Bick* teaches all of the elements of the claim, except for a plurality of key buttons being positioned with no spacing, which is allegedly taught *Miller*. Amended Claim 1 teaches, in part, a keypad assembly for a portable radiotelephone, including key button part disposed on the sensing means, the key button part integrating a keypad and a touch screen panel by having a plurality of key buttons being integrally formed with each other and being positioned such that top planar surfaces of the plurality of key buttons form a single, substantially planar touch screen panel with no spacing in between the top planar surfaces of adjacent keys among the plurality of key buttons, for functioning in one of a keypad mode and a touch screen panel mode.

Bick discloses a keypad assembly 7 for a portable radiotelephone (Abstract; Fig. 3), comprising a key button part 17 having a plurality of key buttons 18 for functioning in one of a keypad mode and a touch screen panel mode (page 4 lines 18-19); and a power supply unit (page 4 lines 5-6).

As previously argued, *Bick* discloses nowhere the key buttons 18 being integrally formed with each other and being positioned with no spacing in between in between. Further, although *Miller* happens to show that the keys are close together, the keys are close together at the bottom edge, not at the top planar surfaces of the keys. In fact, because *Miller* is directed to easy typing,

Miller actually teaches away from having no space between the top planar surfaces of the keys, as this would make typing difficult in that individual keys would be harder to recognize. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 structurally differs from *Bick* in view of *Miller*, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

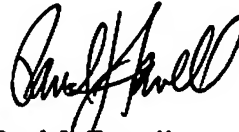
Regarding the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the above rationale for amended Claim 1 also similarly applies to amended Claim 4 with respect to *Bick* in view of *Miller*.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the above rationale for amended Claim 1 also similarly applies to amended Claim 7 with respect to *Bick* in view of *Miller*.

Regarding Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8, while not conceding the patentability of the dependent claims, *per se*, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8 are also patentable for at least the above reasons. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-8 are allowable over *Bick*, and is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-8, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written in a cursive style.

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